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23 October 1967

L7C5 ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: SB/CAO

SUBJECT : Soviet Ukrainian lawyers petition for Ukraine's right to separation from the Soviet Union

1. Several reports were received in the past three years to the effect that a group of Soviet Ukrainian lawyers had been arrested for sending to the United Nations and to Soviet authorities a petition complaining about the colonial status of the Ukrainian SSR and demanding its constitutional rights to independence. These reports, however, were never substantiated until a copy of the court verdict and information obtained during a visit with Ivan SVITLYCHNYY (literary critic), in Kiev, in September of this year were received. Following is the substance of the verdict and the information given to a Project AERODYNAMIC source by Ivan SVITLYCHNYY.

2. Beginning with 1957, the 7 individuals named later in this memorandum were involved in activities concerned with undermining the authority and prestige of the CPSU, dissemination of literature criticizing Soviet Communist Party theories, and separation of the Ukraine from the Soviet Union. In 1959, Lev Hryhorovych LUKYANENKO and Stepan Martynovych VERUN drew up plans for the organization of the Ukrainian Workers Peasants Union, (UWPU) a nationalist group which called for a struggle against the Soviet State and for separation of the Ukraine from the Union, and for the establishment of an "independent Ukraine". (Information about the Workers Peasants Union was first brought out to the West by a Western citizen in 1964.) On the basis of the program of the UWPU, LUKYANENKO and VERUN recruited KANDYBA, LUTSKIV, BOHOVNYTSKY and LIBOVICH (see below). There was a meeting of the group held on 6 November 1960. Another meeting was scheduled for 22 January 1961, but the men were arrested prior to that date. Mykola VASICHUK (or VASHUK), a student of the higher Party school, who was present at the meeting of 6 November 1960 denounced the group to the KGB prior to the January 1961 meeting.

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name of SVITLYCHNYY
organizer of UWPU deleted
over concern to report
and to SB/CBI

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3. Following is a list of the principle members of the UWPU and the terms of the sentences they received after their arrest in 1961. Earlier reports said there was no information known about the fate of the members of the group. However, there was a recent report that VERUN, and probably the others, were in a Mordovian prison camp.

- a. KANDYBA, Ivan Olekseyevych. Born 1930. Lived in Pidlyasha (now Poland). Graduated law faculty at Ivan Franko University in Lvov in 1953. Was member of Law Consultants Association in Lvov Oblast. Was not a member of the Communist Party. Sentenced to 15 years in prison, under Paragraph 56, Part I, and Paragraph 64 of the Criminal Code of the UkrSSR.
- b. LUKYANNENKO, Lev Hryhorevych. Born 1927 in Khrypivka, Chernigov Oblast. Married. Member CPSU. Graduated in 1957 from Moscow State University in Lomonosova law faculty. Was employed with Law Consultants Association in Hlynyany, Lvov Oblast. Sentenced to death under Paragraph 56, and to 15 years under Paragraph 64 of the Criminal Code of the UkrSSR. His sentence was later commuted to 15 years in prison by the court of appeals.
- c. VERUN, Stepan Martynovych. Born 1932, Lvov Oblast. Member CPSU. Graduated from higher Party School in Lvov in 1955. Prior to arrest was employed as staff propagandist of the Sovcom in Radekhiv. Sentenced to 11 years in prison under Paragraph 56, Part I, and Paragraph 64 of the Criminal Code of the UkrSSR.
- d. LIBOVYCH, Olexa Semenovych. Born 1935 in Lemkivshchyna. In 1958 graduated Lvov Agricultural Institute. Employed in agricultural department of Lvov Oblast Oblvykomm. Sentenced to 10 years in prison under Paragraph 56, Part I, and Paragraph 64 of the Criminal Code of the UkrSSR.

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- e. LUTS'KIV, Vasyl' Stepanovych. Recently sent to mental institution. Born 1935 in Lvov Oblast. Was chairman of a village club in Pavliv. Had only about 9 years schooling. He was the only member of the group who was not a university graduate, and he was the one who turned informer (sekset) on the group's activities. Sentenced to 10 years in prison under Paragraph 56, Part I, and Paragraph 64 of the Criminal Code of the UkrSSR. In a White book, LYKHO VID ROZUMU, recently brought out to the West, there is a letter written by LUTS'KIV to the CC CPU in which he gives details on how he was forced to become an agent for the KGB.
- f. BOROVNYTSKY, Yosif Yalianovych. Born 1932 in Lemkivshchyna. In 1956, graduated law faculty Lvov University. Was employed as an investigator in an attorney's office in Peremyshlyany Raion, Lvov Oblast. Sentenced under Paragraph 19 and 56, Part I of the Criminal Code of the UkrSSR. Terms of his sentence not known.
- g. KIPYSH, Ivan Zakharovych. Born 1923. Was not Party member. Worked with militia in Lvov. Sentenced under Paragraphs 19 and 59, Part I of the Ukrainian Criminal Code. Terms of sentence not known.

All above sentences were confirmed by the Supreme Court on 26 July 1961.

Project AERODYNAMIC

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